
Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Issued: April 22, 2014

In the Matter of the Application of ITC Midwest LLC for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Minnesota-Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line Project in Jackson, Martin, and Faribault Counties, Minnesota

OAH Docket Number: 60-2500-30782

PUC Docket Number: ET-6675/CN-12-1053 (Certificate of Need)
ET-6675/TL-12-1337 (Route Permit)

Public Hearing Locations

Blue Earth
Tuesday, May 13, 2014
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hamilton Hall
209 South Main Street
Blue Earth, MN 56013

Jackson
Tuesday, May 13, 2014
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

National Guard Armory
108 County Road 51
Jackson, MN 56143

Fairmont
Wednesday, May 14, 2014
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn
1201 Torgerson Drive
Fairmont, MN 56031

Project Description

ITC Midwest LLC has filed a certificate of need application and a route permit application for the construction and operation of approximately 75 miles of new 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Jackson, Martin, and Faribault counties. The proposed transmission line would run east from the existing Lakefield Junction substation near the city of Lakefield in Jackson County, crossing Martin County to a new Huntley substation near the city of Winnebago in Faribault County. From the new Huntley substation, the transmission line would proceed south crossing the Minnesota-Iowa border near the city of Elmore, Minnesota. The project includes expanding the Lakefield Junction substation, constructing a new Huntley substation, reconfiguring several existing 69 kV and 161 kV transmission lines, and decommissioning the Winnebago substation. As indicated by ITC Midwest, the project is being proposed to increase wind generation outlet capacity, relieve heavy loading on the existing 161 kV system, and provide cost effective delivery of energy.

Public Hearing Information

The purpose of the hearing is to compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the certificate of need and route permit applications. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 14 and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 1405. Regarding any issue on which Chapter 1405 is silent, the provisions of Minnesota Rules 1400.5010 to 1400.8400 shall apply. The applicable statutes and rules are available on the Office of the Revisor of Statutes webpage at: <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us>.

Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required. Citizens will have the opportunity to question witnesses and offer oral and written comments into the record. Representatives of ITC Midwest LLC and staff from the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Commerce will be available to answer questions about the project and the state review process.

The hearings will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to offer testimony and ask questions. The hearings may conclude earlier where all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded. The administrative law judge may elect to recess the hearing and set additional days for hearing, if necessary.

Comment Period

Public Comment Period: The comment period continues after the public hearing until **4:30 p.m., Friday, May 30, 2014.**

Submit Public Comments: James E. LaFave, Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55164
Fax: 651-361-7936
Email: routecomments.oah@state.mn.us

The Office of Administrative Hearings docket number (60-2500-30782) should be included in all communications.

Process Information

The project is being reviewed in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules, Chapters 7829 and 7849 for the certificate of need and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7850 for the routing permit.

The review process begins on the date the Commission determines that an application is substantially complete. The certificate of need and route permit applications were accepted as substantially complete by the Commission on June 27, 2013. The Commission has 12 months from the date the application is accepted to reach a final decision on both the certificate of need and route permit applications.

Information gathered at the public hearing and during the comment period will be used by the administrative law judge to write a report for the Commission.

OAH Docket Number: 60-2500-30782

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The report will include findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations on the merits of the project, whether the project is needed, a preferred route alternative, and conditions or provisions for the proposed route permit. In addition, the administrative law judge's report will include all evidence properly submitted into the record for the case, including public comments.

After receiving the report, the Commission will make a final decision on the permit at a separate meeting, anticipated in October 2014.

How to Learn More

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about this project at:

<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/> or contact the Environmental Review Manager or Public Advisor (below).

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive notification when new documents are filed in this docket. Note that subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. www.puc.state.mn.us
2. Select green box "Subscribe to a Docket"
3. Enter your email address
4. For "Type of Subscription" select "Docket Number"
5. For "Docket Number" select "12" in the first box, type "1053" for certificate of need or "1337" for route permit in the second box.
6. Select "Add to List"
7. Select "Save"

Full Case Record: All documents filed in these matters are available on the Commission's eDockets website at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets." For the certificate of need docket enter the year (12) and the docket number (1053) then select "Search." For the route permit docket enter the year (12) and the docket number (1337) then select "Search."

Public Libraries: A printed copy of the certificate of need and route permit applications and the environmental impact statement are available for review at the following libraries:

- Blue Earth Public Library, 124 West 7th Street, Blue Earth MN 56013
- Fairmont Public Library, 110 North Park, Fairmont MN 56031
- Jackson County Library, 311 3rd Street, Jackson MN 56143
- Lakefield Public Library, 410 Main Street, Lakefield MN 56150
- Muir Library, 36 Main Street North, Winnebago MN 56098
- Sherburn Public Library, 27 North Main Street, Sherburn MN 56171

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission

- Tracy Smetana, Public Advisor, consumer.puc@state.mn.us, 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782
- Scott Ek, Energy Facility Planner, scott.ek@state.mn.us, 651-201-2255

OAH Docket Number: 60-2500-30782

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Department of Commerce

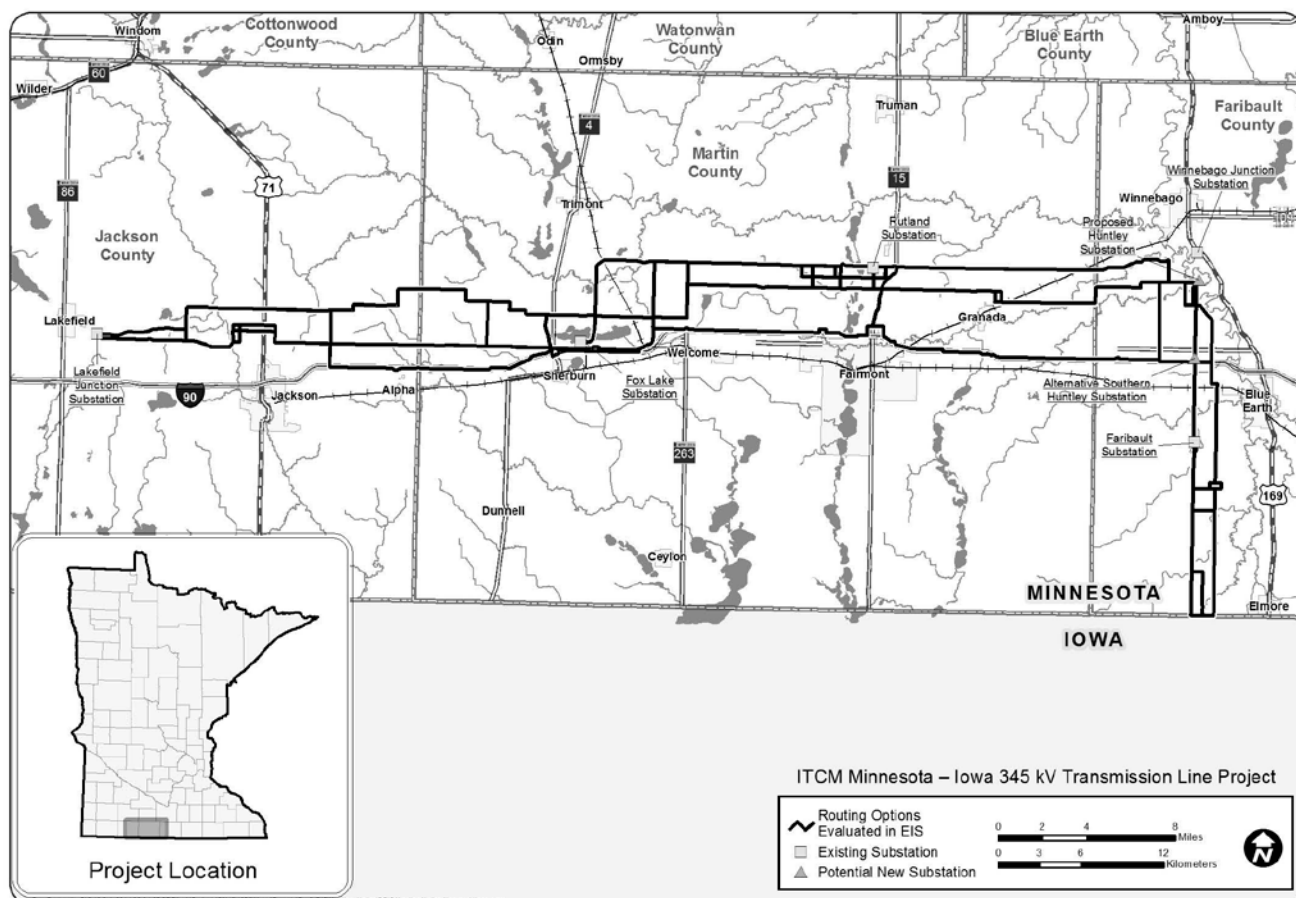
- Ray Kirsch, Environmental Review Manager, raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us, 651-539-1841

ITC Midwest LLC

- David Grover, ITC Midwest LLC, dgrover@itctransco.com, 651-222-1000 ext. 2308

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language, large print materials, audio), please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 651-361-7000 (voice) or the Public Utilities Commission at 651-296-0406 (voice) at least one week in advance of the meeting. Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

Project Overview Map



Source: ITCM Minnesota – Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line Project Notice of Draft EIS and Public Information Meetings, Minnesota Department of Commerce, March 24, 2014.